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REMARKS

The present response is to the Office Action mailed in the above-referenced case on October 13, 2005. Claims 22-33 are presented for examination. Claims 22-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anupam et al. ("Automating Web Navigation with the WebVCR"), hereinafter Anupam, in view of the newly presented reference of Manohar et al. (U.S. 6,572,662), hereinafter Manohar.

Applicant has carefully studied the prior art references cited and applied by the Examiner in this case, and the Examiner's rejections and statements of the instant Office Action. In response, applicant herein amends independent claims 22 and 28 to more particularly recite the patentable aspects of applicant's invention. Applicant further provides valid arguments supporting said amendments, as well as preexisting limitations in the claims, which will clearly distinguish applicant's invention over that of the combined art.

The Examiner has stated that Anupam teaches applicant's invention as disclosed in claim 22, and similarly in claim 28, with the exception of teaching recording a manual session including a plurality of Web sites. The Examiner has presented the new art of Manohar for teaching this deficiency.

Applicant is frustrated with the manner in which the Examiner has examined applicant's claims during the course of prosecution in this case. Applicant has successfully argued and overcome all of the Examiner's rejections and references previously presented after several rounds of prosecution, and the Examiner has once again presented new art and new grounds of rejection to deal with applicant's previous amendments and arguments. Applicant believes a more responsible approach would be for the Examiner to present all of his rejections and references earlier on in the course of Examination, so as to avoid the multitude of examination Actions and responses by applicant necessitated to overcome the Examiner's rejections. Applicant has worked vigorously through several amendments and arguments presented in the past to overcome each and every one of the several rejections presented by the Examiner, and applicant

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believes it to be unnecessary to deal with so many new references and new grounds of rejection presented in the several previous Office Actions by the Examiner.

Regarding the merit rejection of applicant's claims, applicant amends the independent claims to particularly recite a system and method wherein the session recording mechanism is operable by a first user, and a log-in mechanism storing log-in information for one or more second users wherein the automated sequence is performed on behalf of the second user, including logging in to the sites on behalf of the second user, and transmitting the aggregated data to the second user. For convenience and as an aid in prosecution, applicant reproduces independent claim 22 below as amended.

Claim 22 as amended now recites:

22. (Amended) A system for creating and executing an automated Web browser navigation and data collection sequence comprising:

a session recording mechanism operable by a first user for recording user Web navigation and interaction activity required for data collection associated with a manual navigation and interaction sequence comprising plurality of web sites;

a log-in mechanism for storing log-in information for one or more second users for individual ones of the plurality of sites visited in the manual sequence; and

a file creation module for converting operations recorded in the manual sequence into an executable sequence of instructions for conducting an automated sequence;

wherein the system follows the manual sequence, creates the automated sequence, and performs the automated sequence on behalf of the second user at least once after creation, including logging in to individual ones of the sites on behalf of the second user using the login information for the second user, and storing and aggregating data collected in the automated sequence and transmitting the aggregated data to the second user.

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Applicant's independent claim 28 recites applicant's method for practicing the invention in accordance with the limitations of system claim 22, and has been similarly amended to agree in language and the limitations of the system claim.

Applicant considers a key and patentable aspect of applicant's invention is the ability to perform by proxy, the automated navigation sequence created by the navigation and interaction of a first user, on behalf of a second user, and transmitting aggregated data resulting from the navigation to one or more second users. Applicant also believes that the reference of Anupam does not adequately deal with extracting, formatting, normalizing and summarizing the collected data transmitted to the user.

Referring now to applicant's specification with reference to Fig. 23 which illustrates the automated navigation software according to an embodiment of the present invention, applicant's invention teaches that a third party (proxy) performs the navigation sequence which then accesses the user profile containing the log-in information, which is key to the particular service of the invention. In applicant's invention a service provider can provide the navigation sequencing software to user's at individual PC's, which enables the user to create the navigation sequence and then provide the sequence to the service provider which can then run the automated sequence on behalf of the user and then provide to aggregated data to the individual user.

For example, again referring to the specification pertaining to applicant's Fig. 23, in one embodiment of the invention, a user may create his or her own instruction file for directing an automated navigation sequence, which is stored in a secure location in memory on a user's PC. A user input module 411 is provided within layer 399 of the navigation sequencing software and adapted to except additional data input from a user regarding options to add functionality to an automated routine wherein such functionality was not originally part of the routine. This provides a unique opportunity for a user and for the provider of the software. The provider of the software maintains a complete data navigation, aggregation, and summary service on behalf of subscribed users by proxy.

The service provider may create a customer base that may be acclimated to and eventually driven to subscribe to a full proxy data-aggregation and summary service. The service provider may make some functionality immediately available through SW 395

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wherein the added functionality is performed by proxy at the location of the service provider by virtue of fully automated navigation capabilities. In this case, a user may be prompted through the input module 411 to add such functionality into an automated sequence as desired. Added functionality may include summarizing, parsing, data-searching, solution-oriented computation, automated site registration, and other functions.

In one embodiment of applicant's invention a user, as part of an agreement with the service provider for enabling proxy functions to be performed during automated navigation sequences executed by the user, may allow the service provider access to a secure area of memory on a user's PC hard drive, or on a removable drive for the purpose of obtaining any data or information the service provider needs for satisfying a requested proxy routine inserted into an automated navigation sequence. In this aspect, a user's station becomes a data-source entity accessible under certain circumstances to the service provider. A database containing a plurality of such entities may be likened to the operating network itself. Therefore, the service provider may manage an entire customer base for limited proxy services without formal representation of that base using additional equipment and software that would otherwise be required. Moreover, such consumers acclimated to proxy functionality and addition of sites for servicing may be eventually eased into the service provider's main portal system as hardcore subscribers.

According to another embodiment of applicant's invention, files created by one user may be distributed to one or more peers practicing the present invention by virtue of SW 395. For example, an employer, instructor, or other individual in charge of a plurality of subordinates may create instruction files containing user names and passwords wherein such files are automatically distributed to a list of authorized subordinates upon creation. In this way the subordinates may experience a same automated navigation sequence including tasks performed. In some embodiments, this technique may be preferred over manually explaining navigation sequences to one or more individuals, or sending an end-page hyperlink.

The reference of Anupam clearly fails to teach a capability wherein the session recording mechanism is operable by a first user, and a log-in mechanism storing log-in information for one or more second users, wherein the automated sequence is performed

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on behalf of the second user, including logging in to the sites on behalf of the second user, and transmitting the aggregated data to the second user. Further, Anupam fails to explicitly teach or suggest extracting, formatting, normalizing and summarizing the collected data transmitted to the user as is taught in applicant's invention and claims.

Applicant therefore believes that claims 22 and 28 are now patentable over the art of Anupam, as amended and argued above, and the reference should be removed as a primary reference. Dependent claims 23-27 and 29-33 are then patentable on their own merits, or at least as depended from a patentable claim.

As all of the claims have been shown to be patentable over the art as amended and argued above, applicant respectfully requests that this application be reconsidered, the rejections be withdrawn, and that the case be passed quickly to issue.

If any fees are due beyond fees paid with this amendment, authorization is made to deduct those fees from deposit account 50-0534. If any time extension is needed beyond any extension requested with this amendment, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully Submitted,
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